

## LESSON 4: THE SIGNS OF SUCCESS



*academic awards  
athletic awards  
decorations  
individual awards  
military awards  
miscellaneous awards  
unit awards*

### INTRODUCTION

The awards program is for *any* JROTC cadet who excels. It recognizes high levels of performance, excellence, and achievement. Since the JROTC program recognizes that not all cadets have the same abilities and skills, the Army designed its awards program to recognize as many personal traits as possible in cadets. There are two kinds of awards: **unit awards**, which recognize unit excellence, and **individual awards**, which recognize personal achievement.

The Army rewards cadets for extracurricular activities, excellence in competition, contributions to unit goals, and outstanding service. Also, you may receive national recognition from patriotic and civic organizations for outstanding academic and military achievements.

### UNIT AWARDS

When you are in JROTC, you are part of a team. Team efforts can lead to unit awards. The JROTC Awards Program offers three types of unit **decorations**: Merit Unit, Honor Unit and Honor Unit with Distinction. The Merit Unit, Honor Unit, and the Honor Unit with Distinction

awards are chosen based on results of a formal inspection and on exceptionally high standards of training and discipline throughout the school year. All service academies reserve twenty appointments for honor graduates of schools that have been designated Honor Units with Distinction. These cadets may apply for appointment to one of these service academies.

Department of the Army adopted the Merit Unit insignia for Army JROTC cadets of units designated as Merit Units. It is a small white enamel five-pointed star. You wear this insignia above the right pocket of the Class A or B uniforms.

The Honor Unit insignia for Army JROTC cadets of units designated as Honor Units. It is a small blue enamel five-pointed star. You wear this insignia in the same manner as the Merit Unit insignia.



White



Blue



Yellow

*MERIT UNIT*

*HONOR UNIT*

*HONOR UNIT  
WITH  
DISTINCTION*

### *HONOR UNIT INSIGNIA*

The Honor Unit with Distinction insignia is similar to the Honor Unit insignia. While the Honor Unit is blue, the Honor Unit with Distinction is yellow. Department of the Army also adopted this device for all Army JROTC cadets of units designated as Honor Units with

Distinction. You wear this insignia in the same manner as the Honor Unit insignia.

## **INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

Each Army JROTC unit can award various types of individual awards to its cadets for recognition of excellence, outstanding achievement, or superior performance. There are two main categories of individual awards: institutional and national awards.

### *INSTITUTIONAL AWARDS*

Superintendents, principals, and Army instructors can present institutional awards to individual JROTC cadets for reasons of academic excellence; military and athletic achievement or performance; participation in community parades; excelling in recruiting programs; and/or other reasons that are determined by your instructors. You have the opportunity to earn as many of these awards as you possibly can.

Indicated below is the order of merit (or importance) for these awards along with the number of ribbons for each type. Within each category, you wear these awards (or ribbons) in their numerical order.

1. **Academic Awards** — 10 ribbons
2. **Military Awards** — 15 ribbons
3. **Athletic Awards** — 5 ribbons
4. **Miscellaneous Awards** — 5 ribbons





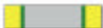



























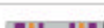



### *NATIONAL AWARDS*

National awards recognize individual JROTC cadets for heroic, distinguished, meritorious, and other commendable acts and achievements.

## CONCLUSION

The JROTC Awards Program has much to offer. It can give you the chance to be recognized either individually or as a member of a unit for your accomplishments and excellence. To earn these awards, you must be as competitive as your abilities and skills will allow. You can find a listing of all awards and the criteria for earning them at the end of this section. Often, you must put forth an extra effort to even be in competition for them. The result, however, is self-satisfaction and sometimes, public recognition for your accomplishments.

## ARMY JROTC AWARDS

 <b>Distinguished Cadet</b> (N-1-1) <i>Awarded annually to one cadet who exhibits the highest degree of experience in scholastics.</i>	 <b>Academic Excellence</b> (N-1-2) <i>Awarded annually to one cadet in each LET level for maintaining highest school academic grades.</i>	 <b>Academic Achievement</b> (N-1-3) <i>Awarded annually to those cadets who maintain a grade of "A" in all academic subjects.</i>	 <b>Perfect Attendance</b> (N-1-4) <i>Awarded to cadets with no unexcused absence during each quarter/semester.</i>
 <b>Student Government</b> (N-1-5) <i>Elected to a student government office.</i>	 <b>Leadership Education Training Service</b> (N-1-6) <i>Awarded to cadets successfully completing first quarter/semester of training of each LET year.</i>	 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-1-7)	 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-1-8)
 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-1-9)	 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-1-10)	 <b>Varsity Athletics</b> (N-2-1) <i>Awarded annually to cadets that excel in varsity sports.</i>	 <b>Physical Fitness</b> (N-2-2) <i>Awarded annually to cadets who maintain excellent physical fitness IAW AR 145-2.</i>
 <b>JROTC Athletics</b> (N-2-3) <i>Awarded annually to cadets that excel in ROTC athletics.</i>	 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-2-4)	 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-2-5)	 <b>DAI/SAI Instructor Leadership</b> (N-3-1) <i>Awarded annually to one cadet per LET level who displays the highest degree of leadership.</i>
 <b>Personal Appearance</b> (N-3-2) <i>Awarded annually to cadets who consistently present an outstanding appearance.</i>	 <b>Proficiency</b> (N-3-3) <i>Awarded annually to cadets who have demonstrated an exceptionally high degree of leadership, academic achievement, and performance of duty.</i>	 <b>Drill Team</b> (N-3-4) <i>Awarded annually to drill team members.</i>	 <b>Orienteering</b> (N-3-5) <i>Awarded annually to cadets who are members of orienteering teams.</i>
 <b>Color Guard</b> (N-3-6) <i>Awarded annually to members of the color/honor guard.</i>	 <b>Rifle Team</b> (N-3-7) <i>Awarded annually to rifle team members.</i>	 <b>Adventure Training</b> (N-3-8) <i>Awarded annually to cadets who are members of adventure training type units.</i>	 <b>Commendation</b> (N-3-9) <i>Awarded to cadets whose performance of duty exceptionally exceeds that expected of a cadet of his grade and experience.</i>
 <b>Good Conduct</b> (N-3-10) <i>Awarded annually to cadets who have demonstrated outstanding conduct throughout the school year.</i>	 <b>Annual Camp</b> (N-3-11) <i>Awarded to cadets for annual camp participation.</i>	 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-3-12)	 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-3-13)
 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-3-14)	 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-3-15)	 <b>Parade</b> (N-4-1) <i>Awarded to cadets who have participated in local community parades (Veterans' Day Parade, Memorial Day Parade, etc.).</i>	 <b>Recruiting</b> (N-4-2) <i>Awarded to cadets who recruit students into the JROTC program each quarter/semester.</i>
 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-4-3)	 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-4-4)	 <b>Optional by SAI</b> (N-4-5)	 <b>Service Learning</b> (N-4-6) <i>Awarded annually to cadets who participate in service learning projects.</i>
 <b>Excellent Staff Performance</b> (N-4-7) <i>Awarded annually to Cadet Staff Officers for outstanding performance.</i>			

<b>ACADEMIC AWARDS</b>		
<i>AWARD</i>	<i>AWARDED BY</i>	<i>CRITERIA</i>
DISTINGUISHED CADET AWARD FOR SCHOLASTIC EXCELLENCE (N-1-1)	Superintendent	Awarded annually to one cadet who exhibits the highest degree of excellence in scholastics.
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD (N-1-2)	Principal	Awarded annually to one cadet in each LET level for maintaining highest school academic grades.
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT RIBBON (N-1-3)	DAI/SAI	Awarded annually to those cadets who maintain a grade of “A” in all academic subjects.
PERFECT ATTENDANCE RIBBON (N-1-4)	SAI	Awarded to cadets with no unexcused absences during each quarter/semester.
STUDENT GOVERNMENT RIBBON (N-1-5)	Principal	Awarded to cadets elected to student government offices.
LET SERVICE RIBBON (N-1-6)	SAI	Awarded to cadets successfully completing first quarter/semester of training of each LET year.
N-1-7 THROUGH N-1-10	DAI/SAI	Awarded based on criteria developed locally and approved by Region Commanders.

Awarded by the DAI, except for in single units, then awarded by the SAI.

<b>MILITARY AWARDS</b>		
<i>AWARD</i>	<i>AWARDED BY</i>	<i>CRITERIA</i>
DAI/SAI LEADERSHIP RIBBON (N-3-1)	SAI	Awarded annually to one cadet per LET level who displays the highest degree of leadership.
PERSONAL APPEARANCE RIBBON (N-3-2)	SAI	Awarded annually to cadets who consistently present an outstanding appearance.
PROFICIENCY RIBBON (N-3-3)	DAI/SAI *	Awarded annually to those cadets who have demonstrated an exceptionally high degree of leadership, academic achievement, and performance of duty.
DRILL TEAM RIBBON (N-3-4)	SAI	Awarded annually to Drill Team members.
ORIENTEERING RIBBON (N-3-5)	SAI	Awarded annually to cadets who are members of orienteering teams.
COLOR/HONOR GUARD RIBBON (N-3-6)	SAI	Awarded annually to members of the Color/Honor Guards.
RIFLE TEAM RIBBON (N-3-7)	SAI	Awarded annually to members of the Rifle Team.
ADVENTURE TRAINING RIBBON (N-3-8)	SAI	Awarded annually to cadets who are members of adventure training units.
COMMENDATION RIBBON (N-3-9)	SAI	Awarded to cadets whose performance of duty exceptionally exceeds that expected for grade and experience.
GOOD CONDUCT RIBBON (N-3-10)	SAI	Awarded annually to the cadets who have demonstrated outstanding conduct and participation.
SUMMER CAMP PARTICIPATION RIBBON (N-3-11)	SAI	Awarded to those cadets who participate in summer camp.
N-3-12 THROUGH N-3-15	DAI/SAI	Awarded based on criteria developed locally and approved by Region Commanders.

\*Awarded by the DAI, except for in single units where it is awarded by the SAI.

<b>ATHLETIC AWARDS</b>		
<i>AWARD</i>	<i>AWARDED BY</i>	<i>CRITERIA</i>
VARSITY ATHLETIC RIBBON (N-2-1)	Principal	Awarded annually to cadets who excel in varsity sports.
PHYSICAL FITNESS AWARD (N-2-2)	SAI	Awarded annually to cadets who maintain excellent physical fitness: male cadets must run one mile in 8:30 minutes and female cadets in 10:45 minutes or less.
ROTC ATHLETIC RIBBON (N-2-3)	SAI	Awarded annually to cadets who excel in ROTC athletics.
N-2-4 THROUGH N-2-5	DAI/SAI*	Awarded based on criteria developed locally and approved by Region Commanders.

\*Awarded by the DAI, except for in single units where it is awarded by the SAI.

<b>MISCELLANEOUS AWARDS</b>		
<i>AWARD</i>	<i>AWARDED BY</i>	<i>CRITERIA</i>
PARADE RIBBON (N-4-1)	SAI	Awarded to cadets who have participated in local community parades (e.g., Veterans or Memorial Day parades).
RECRUITING RIBBON (N-4-2)	SAI	Awarded to cadets who recruit students into the JROTC program.
N-4-3 THROUGH N-4-4	DAI/SAI*	Awarded based on criteria developed locally and approved by Region Commanders.
SUPERIOR CADET AWARD (N-4-5)	SAI	Awarded to cadet staff officers for outstanding performance.
SERVICE LEARNING RIBBON (N-4-6)	SAI	Awarded annually to cadets who participate in service learning projects.

\*Awarded by the DAI, except for in single units where it is awarded by the SAI.

<b>NATIONAL AWARDS</b>	
<i>AWARD</i>	<i>CRITERIA</i>
MEDAL FOR HEROISM	Awarded to any JROTC/NDCC cadet who has been distinguished by an act of heroism.
SUPERIOR CADET DECORATION	Awarded annually to the outstanding cadet of each LET level.
LEGION OF VALOR BRONZE CROSS FOR ACHIEVEMENT	Awarded annually to an LET 3 cadet for achievement of scholastic excellence in military and academic subjects and development of leadership.
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AWARD	Awarded to a cadet enrolled in ROTC for meritorious achievement.
THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS AWARD	Awarded annually for overall improvement in military and scholastic studies.
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION	Awarded annually to a cadet at each institution for outstanding ability and achievement.
ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS OF THE U.S. AWARD	Awarded annually to a full-time cadet who has completed at least two full years of JROTC.
AMERICAN LEGION AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY AWARDS	Awarded annually to outstanding cadets at each institution for general military excellence and scholastic achievement.
THE NATIONAL SOJOURNERS AWARD	Awarded annually to an outstanding cadet at each installation who contributed the most to encourage and demonstrate Americanism.
U.S. ARMY RECRUITING COMMAND AWARD FOR JROTC	Awarded annually to a cadet at each school in recognition of their outstanding achievement and contributions to the JROTC program.
ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S. ARMY AWARD	Presented at the discretion of the DAI/SAI and the local AUSA chapter according to criteria that best suits the school's program.